

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)

(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

To:

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P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUEDate of mailing (*day/month/year*)
27 July 2006 (27.07.2006)Applicant's or agent's file reference
IGT1P213.WO**IMPORTANT NOTICE**International application No.
PCT/US2005/000746International filing date (*day/month/year*)
11 January 2005 (11.01.2005)Priority date (*day/month/year*)
14 January 2004 (14.01.2004)

Applicant

IGT et al

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

The International Bureau of WIPO
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Authorized officer

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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P213.WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2005/000746	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 January 2005 (11.01.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14 January 2004 (14.01.2004)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant IGT			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

Date of issuance of this report
17 July 2006 (17.07.2006)

Authorized officer

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 20 APR 2005

WIPO

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000746

International filing date (day/month/year)
11.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
14.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07F17/32

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000746

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000746

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-46
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-1 363 252 (ATRONIC INTERNATIONAL GMBH) 19 November 2003
(2003-11-19)

D2: WO 02/05229 A (ONLINE GAMES LLC) 17 January 2002 (2002-01-17)

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-46 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

2.1 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1, 6, 25, 39, 44

The application relates to communicating gaming machines with gaming servers through a network.

Computer networks are well known, as well as the communication protocols used in them. The technical features set out in claim 1 refer to these computer networks, these features being:

- at least one master server,
- at least one gaming apparatus comprising a display unit, a value input device and a gaming apparatus controller having a processor and a memory,
- a plurality of gaming servers interconnected with the at least one gaming apparatus and the at least one master server, each server comprising a processor and a memory,
- exchange of data among the servers and the at least one gaming apparatus,
- determination of a payout.

The following steps involved in the exchange of data among the servers and the gaming apparatus are well known: receiving identification data, sending messages

with the identification data previously received, analysis of the received data, selection of an option on the bases of the received data, data download and display of the information received.

The difference between the subject-matter of claim 1 and the steps just mentioned is their application to a particular communication system for downloading information from a server to a gaming machine.

However, downloading information from a server to a computer (and the steps to do it) is a well known process.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore no more than a straightforward technical implementation of a well known network protocol (TCP/IP for example) on the desired network. Examples of other technical implementations can be found in documents D1 and D2

For these reasons the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

2.2 Analogously to claim 1, the subject-matter of claims 6, 25, 39 and 44 lacks inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-5, 7-24, 26-38, 40-43, 45, 46

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-24, 26-38, 40-43, 45, 46 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, the subject-matter of claims 2-5, 7-24, 26-38, 40-43, 45, 46 thus not being inventive in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.